



- **EARLY BIRD PRICES: Stars & Stripes Gala**, see insert
- **Evaluating Trump's first 100 days**, page 2
- **Welcome our new sponsor**, page 3
- **Track bills before they become law**, page 4

Mark your calendar

- **May 17:** SVARW regular monthly meeting, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave. San Jose. Check-in from 9 to 9:30 am. Cost: \$15.
- **June 21:** SVARW regular monthly meeting, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave. San Jose. Check-in from 9 to 9:30 am. Cost: \$15.
- **Aug. 26:** Stars and Stripes Gala.

2017 Membership

Contact Gail DeSmet at membership@svarw.com.

Welcome

SVARW welcomes the following new members:

**Barbara Sawyer
Leah and Eddie Porta
Mayvid Maclay
Darla Beuerman
Donald Ludwig
Ruth Pedroza-Moore
and Larry Moore**

SVARW Roster is ready

The 2017 SVARW rosters will be handed out at the May and June regular brunch meetings.

Upcoming Events at SVARW

Let's stop massive new gas, car tax

Taxpayers group seeks to block 43% hike in gas tax

Working through the Legislature, courts and ballot initiatives, the tax-fighting work of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has saved Californians billions of dollars. Estimates are that Proposition 13 has saved California taxpayers more than \$528 billion. And when you add in all the other HJTA victories, the average California family of four has saved more than \$60,000 as a direct result of the activities of Howard Jarvis and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Now, we have another threat to fight.

In response to the Legislature's passage of Senate Bill 1, increasing gas and car taxes, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association issued the following statement:

Increasing the gas tax by 43 percent and raising the car tax is another blow to already struggling working Californians. This is money that will come out of the budgets of families who can least afford it. Sacramento has lost its way. Clearly the arrogant politicians would prefer to spend nearly \$100 billion on a bullet train than fix the roads, unless they are paid an additional "bribe" in the form of a \$52 billion tax increase.

On May 17, come hear David Wolfe from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association

DETAILS

Time: Check in begins at 9 a.m.; program begins at 9:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, May 17

Place: Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose 95125

Cost: \$15 includes buffet breakfast

Purchase tickets online: SVARW.com

Special: In May, the first 75 members who preregister online for the meeting will receive an SVARW lapel pin.

speak on:

"How to Save California from Itself and start the new Tax Revolt."

David Wolfe has worked for the past 10 years with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association. Currently as the association's official lobbyist, he monitors hundreds of pieces of legislation, writing position letters and testifying on hundreds of bills, dozens of which would have severely undercut Propositions 13 and 218, the main priorities of the Association. Wolfe's other responsibilities include putting together an annual Report Card for all 120 state legislators, and contributing to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association quarterly

continued on page 3

10-Minute Patriot: How you can help

Let's write letters, send texts, post to Facebook and Tweet about this tax and how it will be used (abused) in our area. For instance, it's a very flexible cash flow which may be used to prop up the hated "Bullet Train to nowhere" which threatens to soak up our precious tax dollars to remove lanes on Highway 101 in South San Jose, Morgan Hill and San Martin, as well as devastate those small communities. We'll have preprinted letters and contact information after the May 17 presentation.

Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women

P.O. Box 3194
Saratoga, CA 95070

Executive Board

Jan Soule, President
Rosa Brown, First Vice-President
Debra Janssen-Martinez, Second Vice-President
Sherrill Martinez, Recording Secretary
Susan Calderon, Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Seago, Treasurer
Diane Owen, Parliamentarian

The board meets at 9:30 a.m. typically on the last Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Contact Jan Soule at President@svarw.com for details.

SVARW sunshine

Norine Bacon is SVARW's official ray of sunshine. When a member is ill or has lost a loved one, Norine reaches out to them with a card and a personal call. Please don't hesitate to call her if you know someone in need. Her number is 408-377-7111.

Contact your officials

Gov. Jerry Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone: 916-445-2841; FAX: 916-445-4633; Email: www.govmail.ca.gov
Assemblyman Rich Gordon, 650-691-2121
Assemblyman Evan Low, 408-371-2802
State Sen. Majority Leader Bill Monning, 916-651-4017
State Sen. Jerry Hill, 650-212-3313
State Sen. Jim Beall, 408-558-1295
State Sen. Bob Wieckowski, 510-794-3900

President's message

Sharp divide seen in local panel

By Jan Soule
SVARW President

Participating in the San Jose Mercury News Trump First 100 Days Panel was just one more item on my "to do" list for SVARW.

In January of 2016, I recall a lunch with my former business partner where we both agreed that Trump would be great, but we didn't think he would follow through with his promises. I am so glad to be proven wrong!

Expressing that same perspective at the April 17 dinner hosted by the San Jose Mercury News for their 100 Day Trump Panel brought sheer disdain from the anti-Trumpers. In their eyes, Trump could do nothing right...are you surprised?

One of the responsibilities of the President of SVARW is to serve as the spokesperson for the organization. For this reason, I was contacted by a reporter for the San Jose Mercury News the day before Trump's Inauguration and asked to participate on a 100 Days panel. I had to make it clear that although the majority of SVARW members were behind Trump, the opinions I expressed were my own.

The Mercury News recruited 25 people to serve on their Trump 100 Day Panel. Their plan was to periodically ask the panel to respond to surveys and answer questions to gauge how Trump's first 100 days were perceived. The party affiliation of the 25 panelist reflected the breakdown of the vote for president in Santa Clara County: 80 percent Democrat, 20 percent Republican.



See video of the panel, including Jan Soule, at mercurynews.com/2017/04/28/trump-first-100-days-sf-bay/

After answering the first set of questions provided by the Mercury News and sending them my photo at the beginning of February, I promptly forgot about the exercise until my brother sent me a text on Feb. 19 asking if I thought I was important because I was quoted in the paper. I had to purchase a paper to see what was printed and was pleasantly surprised that the quote was accurate. Likewise on March 12 when a second report on the 100 Day Panel was published, the Mercury News took pretty much the exact words as a quote.

Since the newspaper had been fair,

continued on page 4

In case you missed it: April meeting

Former SJ mayor continues fight for pension reform

By Joyce Hall
Newsletter editor

The State of California, its counties and cities all face a financial crisis if something isn't done to halt the growing debt that comes from public employee retirement plans. While he was mayor of San Jose, Chuck Reed spearheaded a local effort to rein in the costs of future pensions for city employees. Now, more than two years after leaving office, Reed continues his work to reform public pension plans.

Former Mayor Reed spoke to an overflow crowd at the April 19 meeting of the Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women, held at the 3 Flames Restaurant in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood. In essence, the state, counties and cities must sacrifice growing amounts of their budgets each year to fund the pensions. Before San Jose voters overwhelmingly approved Measure B in 2012, the city was on a trajectory toward bankruptcy. That pension reform measure garnered Reed national attention and gave the city council some added tools to cut pension liabilities.

Reed compared public employee pension plans to credit cards, with elected leaders racking up more and more debt and making only the minimum payments each month.

When they run out of money, they just get another credit card and continue to increase the debt.

As of two years ago, CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System) was \$110 billion short of what it needs to fund coming retirees' benefits. Reed said the system is facing "a colossal financial disaster."

Reed returned to work as a lawyer after leaving the mayor's office, specializing in real estate law. He said litigation and resulting court decisions may be the only way to modify pension plans.

Find out more about efforts around the nation to resolve pension funding at retirementsecurityinitiative.org



Former San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed speaks to SVARW members on April 19.

David Wolfe in May; Tim Donnelly in June

continued from page 1

publication "Taxing Times."

He has also worked on a variety of initiative campaigns to defeat taxes and advocate for property rights and has written numerous pieces including monthly op-eds for different GOP groups and business publications. Wolfe has also been featured on various radio programs and is a sought-after speaker for Republican, conservative and taxpayer advocacy groups.

May speaker

In June, SVARW is pleased to welcome **Tim Donnelly**, the former GOP assemblyman who ran for governor in 2014. He has recently published a book, "Patriot Not Politician: Win or Go Homeless," which recounts his experiences during and after the campaign. He has not ruled out another run for California governor, according to press reports.



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Welcome our new sponsor!

This month SVARW welcomes a new sponsor to our membership, **Robert Varich**, owner of **Allstate-Pinnacle One Insurance** in San Jose, Santa Cruz and Milpitas. His offices provide a complete line of insurance: auto, home, business and life. Robert is a lifelong San Jose resident with a commitment to community service. He is currently a trustee for the Moreland School and vice-chair of the Santa Clara County Republican Party. Robert is glad to support SVARW and its work for our community. Learn more about his business at pin1ins.com

Spread the word about recall effort in Orange County

Last month, voters in Orange County launched an effort to recall freshman state senator Josh Newman, a Democrat who supported SB1, the new gas and vehicle tax that takes effect in November. They need to gather 63,593 signatures from voters in Newman’s District 29, which includes the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Chino Hills, City of Industry, Cypress, Diamond Bar, Fullerton, La Palma, Placentia, Rowland Heights, Stanton, Walnut, West Covina and Yorba Linda. Recall supporters have five months to collect the necessary signatures.

Newman’s upset over Republican Ling Ling Chang last November gave Democrats enough votes in the state senate to pass tax bills without any Republican votes. His victory over Chang was by fewer than 3,000 votes, or less than 1 percent. Removing Newman and electing a Republican would deprive the Democrats of their supermajority in the state senate.

Although most members of SVARW live in Santa Clara County and are not eligible to sign the Newman recall petition, we are asking you to spread the word and encourage any District 29 friends and relatives to support this recall effort.

SVARW tracks progressive overreach

California’s recent passage of a massive new gas and vehicle tax is just one example of voters being the victims of progressive control of the statehouse.

SVARW’s legislative committee has formed to follow new bills in the state Assembly and Senate and provide suggestions for action to the membership. Sometimes a flurry of phone calls, letters and even office visits can affect the outcome of legislation.

The state legislature introduces a staggering number of bills each session. In the last session, the state Senate introduced 1,481 new pieces of legislation while the Assembly put forward 2,915.

Our legislative committee will select a few of the most important bills to track and report on to SVARW.

How you can help

Individual SVARW members can assist the legislative committee by following the progress of a single bill and providing updates. All information about each bill is available online at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>

The progress of bills through committees and the two houses is updated daily online. Email advocacy@svarw.com to get involved and halt laws such as the new gas tax before they reach the governor’s desk.

President’s message

continued from page 2

I decided to accept their invitation to have dinner on April 17 with the panel and agree to be videotaped in a discussion. My only hesitation was that the pro-Trump panelists were a small minority so I contacted the only other panelist that I recognized, Peter Kuo, and urged him to be there... for protection. As it turned out, only 8 of the 25 panelists showed up for the dinner and videotaping. Four of the panelists were vehemently anti-Trump, three of us had voted for Trump and the last gentlemen, an older

Vietnamese man, may not have voted for Trump but now supports him.

The final 100 Day article was published April 28 with a link to an edited 10 minute version of the hour or so videotaped session. As you may have guessed, no minds were changed through the discussion. My perception is that anti-Trumpers live in their own world. The only thing that the moderator could get everyone to agree on was that we were all opposed to lobbyists and gerrymandered voting districts.



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